

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) In a system that includes a heterogeneous imaging device and a homogenous imaging device, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device is a physical imaging device, a method for enabling the heterogeneous imaging device to operate as a homogeneous device, the method comprising:

initiating an imaging job that is compatible with an imaging driver for the homogenous imaging device for rendering within the system;

using a virtual job control interpreter at the heterogeneous imaging device to render at least a portion of the imaging job, wherein the virtual job control interpreter uses a job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver for mapping job control commands into one or more internal job control actions compatible with the heterogeneous imaging device; and

rendering the at least a portion of the imaging job at the heterogeneous imaging device.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device is preloaded with a default job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job control device profile is downloaded to the heterogeneous imaging device.

4. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the job control device profile is based on ~~another~~the homogeneous imaging device.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job control device profile is selected at run-time for compatibility with the heterogeneous imaging device.

6. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the job control device profile is dynamically set to conform to another imaging device.

7. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the imaging job is one of:

- (i) a print job;
- (ii) a scan job;
- (iii) a fax job; and
- (iv) a document management job.

8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the step for using~~ the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

parsing job control commands from the imaging job; and
establishing settings of the heterogeneous imaging device according to requirements specified by the job control commands.

9. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter further comprises at least one of:

- parsing job control commands from the imaging job;
- parsing page control commands from the imaging job; and
- parsing page rendering commands from the imaging job.

10. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

- defining one or more capabilities of the heterogeneous imaging device;
- defining capability settings associated with each of the one or more capabilities;
- mapping a set of job control statements to the capability settings; and
- utilizing a common definition interface to specify the capability settings and the one or more capabilities.

11. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for using the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

- extracting the job control device profile embedded in the imaging job; and
- using a name of the job control device profile and a name of the heterogeneous imaging device to index and retrieve the job control device profile.

12. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step for initiating the imaging job is performed at a computer device that includes the imaging driver.

13. (currently amended) A homogeneous imaging system comprising:
a computing device configured to initiate an imaging job, wherein the client computing device is coupled to a network;
the imaging job, wherein the imaging job is compatible with an imaging driver for a homogenous imaging device;
the homogenous imaging device, wherein the homogenous imaging device is a physical imaging device coupled to the network; and
a heterogeneous imaging device coupled to the network, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device is a physical imaging device that includes a virtual job control interpreter to render at least a portion of the imaging job, and wherein the virtual job control interpreter uses a job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver for mapping job control commands into one or more internal job control actions compatible with the heterogeneous imaging device to render the at least a portion of the imaging job at the heterogeneous imaging device.

14. (original) A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the heterogeneous imaging device is preloaded with a default job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver.

15. (original) A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the job control device profile is downloaded to the heterogeneous imaging device.

16. (currently amended) A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, further comprising an additional homogeneous imaging device coupled to the network, wherein

the homogeneous imaging devices and the heterogeneous device are at least a part of an imaging cluster to selectively render imaging jobs.

17. (currently amended) A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 16, wherein the job control device profile is based on the homogeneous imaging device devices.

18. (original) A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging job is one of:

- (i) a print job;
- (ii) a scan job;
- (iii) a fax job; and
- (iv) a document management job.

19. (original) A homogeneous imaging system as recited in claim 13, wherein the computing device includes the imaging driver.

20. (currently amended) A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for enabling the heterogeneous imaging device to operate as a homogeneous device within the cluster, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium for providing storing computer program code means utilized to implement the within a computer system a method for enabling a physical heterogeneous imaging device to operate as a homogeneous device within a cluster, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

initiating an imaging job that is compatible with an imaging driver for a homogenous device for rendering within the system;

utilizing a virtual job control interpreter at a heterogeneous imaging device of the system to render at least a portion of the imaging job, wherein the virtual job control interpreter uses a job control device profile that is compatible with the imaging driver for mapping job control commands into one or more internal job control actions compatible with the heterogeneous imaging device; and

rendering the at least a portion of the imaging job at the heterogeneous imaging device.

21. (currently amended) A computer program product-readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for downloading the job control device profile to the heterogeneous imaging device.

22. (currently amended) A computer program product-readable medium as recited in claim 21, wherein the job control device profile is based on another imaging device.

23. (currently amended) A computer program product-readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for receiving the job control device profile as a selection at run-time for compatibility with the heterogeneous imaging device.

24. (currently amended) A computer ~~program product~~ readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

parsing job control commands from the imaging job; and

establishing settings of the heterogeneous imaging device according to requirements specified by the job control commands.

25. (currently amended) A computer ~~program product~~ readable medium as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter further comprises at least one of:

parsing job control commands from the imaging job;

parsing page control commands from the imaging job; and

parsing page rendering commands from the imaging job.

26. (currently amended) A computer ~~program product~~ readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

defining one or more capabilities of the heterogeneous imaging device;

defining capability settings associated with each of the one or more capabilities;

mapping a set of job control statements to the capability settings; and

utilizing a common definition interface to specify the capability settings and the one or more capabilities.

27. (currently amended) A computer ~~program product~~ readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for utilizing the virtual job control interpreter comprises:

extracting the job control device profile embedded in the imaging job; and

using a name of the job control device profile and a name of the heterogeneous imaging device to index and retrieve the job control device profile.